

REMARKS

Claims 1-35 are pending in the application. In the above amendments, Claims 2, 4-5, 7-9, 12, 14, 16-18, and 21 have been amended. Claims 1, 3, 6, 13, and 15 have been canceled without prejudice.

In the Office Action dated January 24, 2005, claims 22-35 have been allowed. Claims 1, 3, 6, 13, and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Lee (U.S. Patent No. 4,607,375). Claims 1, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 13, and 20 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 9, 11, 12, 15, 16, 17, 18, and 21 of U.S. Patent No. 6,693,951 in view of Lee (U.S. Patent No. 4,607,375). Claims 2, 4-5, 9, 12, 14, 16-19, and 21 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in the independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In the present amendment, Applicants amends the specification and claims.

Response To Claim Objections

The Office Action rejected claims 1, 3, 6, 13, and 15 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b). Applicants cancelled claims 1, 3, 6, 13, and 15 without prejudice in order to expedite the examination procedure. Accordingly, Applicants request that the rejection of amended claims 1, 3, 6, 13, and 15 be withdrawn.

The Office Action objected to claims 2, 4-5, 9, 12, 14, 16-19, and 21 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Applicants amended the claims not to dependent upon a rejected base claim and rewrote in independent form including all of the limitation s of the base claim and any intervening claims. However, contrary to the objection, claim 19 is not dependent upon a rejected base claim; it remains the same as original. Accordingly, Applicants request that the rejection of amended claims 2, 4-5, 9, 12, 14, 16-19, and 21 be withdrawn.

The Office Action rejected claims 1, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 13, and 20 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting. Applicants acknowledge that the conflicting U.S. Patent No. 6,693,951 is commonly-owned with this present patent application. Applicants submit herewith a Terminal Disclaimer. Accordingly, Applicants request that the rejection of claims 1, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 13, and 20 be withdrawn.

Specification

Applicants provide herewith amendments to the specification. The amendments to the specification are made by presenting marked up replacement paragraphs which identify changes made relative to the immediate prior version. Specifically, Applicants acknowledge that a parent patent application of the present patent application, U.S. Serial No. 09/360,059 filed July 23, 1999, has matured into U.S. Patent No. 6,693,951, issued on February 17, 2004. Applicants have accordingly amended the specification to correctly trace the continuation of the applications.

Applicants believe these changes add no new matter to the application and are fully supported by the original disclosure.

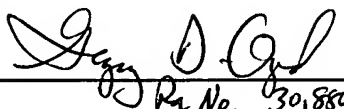
CONCLUSION

In light of the amendments contained herein, Applicants submit that the application is in condition for allowance, for which early action is requested.

Please charge any fees or overpayments that may be due with this response to Deposit Account No. 17-0026.

Respectfully submitted,

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